



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



November 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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KENTUCKY, Northeast

KYZ103-105

Boyd - Lawrence

12	1200EST	0	0	30K	Flood
	1900EST				

Rains of 2.5 to 3.5 inches fell in a 12 to 20 hour time span, producing relatively minor flooding. Water surrounded homes in the community of Rush. Several roads were flooded and temporarily closed. More severe flooding occurred just to the east, in West Virginia.

OHIO, Southeast

OHZ075>076-083>085

Athens - Washington - Jackson - Vinton - Meigs

12	0500EST	0	0	20K	Flood
	0830EST				

Rains of 1.5 to 2.1 inches fell in a 8 to 10 hour period, causing numerous small streams to flood. Several roads were closed early on the 12th. The heavier rains shifted south during the day of the 12th, keeping this event minor for southeast Ohio.

OHZ076

Washington

19	0700EST	0	0	5K	Flood
	1100EST				

Rains of 1.5 to 2.4 inches fell in about a 12 hour period, from late on the 18th into midday on the 19th. The heaviest rain was in the eastern portion of the county. Flooding was relatively minor. Small streams flooding roads was the most common feature.

VIRGINIA, Northwest

Buchanan County

Grundy

12	1840EST	0	0		Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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Power lines were severed by several fallen trees.

Dickenson County

Clintwood

12	1845EST	0	0		Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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Power lines were knocked down by fallen trees.

VAZ003>004

Dickenson - Buchanan

19	0800EST	2	0	525K	Flood
20	1300EST				

Rains of 2 to 2.8 inches fell in a 12 to 18 hour period from late on the 18th into the afternoon of the 19th. Breaks Interstate Park measured 2.8 inches, Grundy had 2.4 inches, and Clintwood observed 2.2 inches. A tragedy struck, near the Dickenson and Buchanan County line in the Russell Fork drainage, well after the heavy rain had ended. Along the small Laurel Branch, about 3 miles northwest of Davenport, a culvert at the bottom of a private driveway was clogged. The runoff from this heavy rain event collected behind the new impoundment. Local authorities said this allowed water to rise tens of feet. Around 1230E on the 20th, the driveway topped earthen wall gave way. The rush of water first struck a mobile home, with contained a family of 4. The mobile home was carried more than 50 yards before it struck another home, and broke apart. The parents were unable to reach their 2 small children when their home disintegrated. The bodies of their 4 year old daughter and their 2 year old son were found the next day.

Two mobile homes were destroyed and 4 mobile homes had major damage in Buchanan County. About 5 vehicles were also destroyed. After a request by Governor Warner, President Bush signed a major disaster declaration that included Buchanan County for individual assistance. See FEMA major disaster #1502. F4MH, M2MH



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WEST VIRGINIA, West

WVZ009>011-020-031>032-040 **Wood - Pleasants - Tyler - Doddridge - Harrison - Taylor - Barbour**

12	0530EST		0	0	45K	Flood
	0830EST					

Rains of 1.75 to 2.5 inches fell in about a 12 hour period, causing many small streams to flood and close roads during the morning hours. In Barbour County, firemen rescued a driver from a vehicle stuck in water on a bridge along Arden Road. The heavier rains shifted south during the day, keeping the flooding over these counties relatively minor.

WVZ005>006-013>015-026>027-037>038 **Wayne - Cabell - Lincoln - Putnam - Kanawha - Boone - Clay - Nicholas - Webster**

12	1200EST		1	0	13.5M	Flood
13	1400EST					

M62VE

Raleigh County
Arnett

12	1825EST		0	0		Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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Several trees were blown down.

Wyoming County
New Richmond

12	1825EST		0	0		Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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Logan County
North Portion

12	1830EST		0	0	100K	Flash Flood
	1930EST					

Mingo County
North Portion

12	1830EST		0	0	100K	Flash Flood
	1930EST					

Medowell County
Bradshaw

12	1845EST		0	0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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Trees were blown down and a mobile home was damaged.

Rains of 2.5 to 4.75 inches fell from 2200E on the 11th through 1900E on the 12th. Repetitive showers formed, as dew points of 60 to 65 degrees fed the system from Kentucky. The heaviest rain rates came toward the end of this prolong period, mainly from 1530E to 1730E, with rates peaking around an inch per hour. South of the training showers, across Logan and Mingo Counties, the heavy rain was more sudden, the result of the last shot of enhanced rain during the late afternoon. The heaviest rain totals ran west to east, from Wayne County and southern Cabell County, through northern Lincoln County, central Kanawha County, southern Clay County, and into central Nicholas County. Branchland's rain total was 4.7 inches. Hamlin measured 4.4 inches. The National Weather Service office at Ruthdale had 4.1 inches. Mount Nebo measured 3.8 inches. The 3.66 inches at Charleston was the 5th heaviest 24 hour total on record, for any month of the year. Richwood observed 3.4 inches. Clendenin and Clay both measured around 3.1 inches.

Severe flooding occurred along streams feeding into the Mud River in Lincoln County, including the Straight Fork. Homes and businesses around Hamlin were also flooded. Damage assessment In Lincoln County counted 35 homes destroyed, 80 with major damage, and 80 with minor damage. The Griffithsville Elementary School was flooded and sustained heavy damage. It was closed and will not likely reopen. Duval High School had minor damage. There were about 20 swift water rescues in the Duval area. One rescue was an unusual example. An Army National Guard black hawk helicopter was in the air, practicing night rescues near Parkersburg. When the request came in for help, the crew raced 65 miles south to Lincoln County and rescued 3 people from a flooded truck. The Griffithsville Post Office had several feet of water inside

In Kanawha County, one of the hardest hit drainages was Davis Creek, which flows from Kanawha State Forest through Loudendale to South Charleston. The main branch of Davis Creek, plus its Middle Fork were hit harder, compared to its Trace Fork. One Loudendale resident said, "It's flooded, but never this bad." Some homes had 3 feet of water inside. A 62 year old male drove into the flooded creek around 2000E on the 12th. Apparently, he had stopped his car for about 5 minutes in the road, since the local fire department had the road barricaded. Then, it appeared the man was going to turn around in a parking lot, but instead drove between a house and a small store, and into the swollen creek. His body was recovered the next day, inside the vehicle, about a miles down the stream. Two South Charleston firefighters rescued a woman along Davis Creek. One firefighter said, "She was hanging onto a tree limb. She was hanging on for dear life. The only thing sticking out of the water was her head and her arm." Other flooded areas in Kanawha County included Campbells Creek, Georges Creek at Malden, Witcher Creek and Winifrede hollow, plus the Rabol-Broundland-Olcott Roads. Inside the city limits of Charleston, a woman was rescued after having her body pinned by flood waters against the lip of a culvert. This occurred along Lick Branch and South Ruffner Road. The city emergency director



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WEST VIRGINIA, West

described the street as a "rushing river." In Kanawha County, 44 homes were destroyed, 150 had major damage, and 88 homes had minor damage. Several private bridges were also destroyed

The crest on the Mud River in Cabell County occurred around 1300E on the 13th, flooding homes and businesses in Milton. Milton Middle School was damaged. Damage assessment counted 8 homes destroyed with major damage to 52 and minor damage to 56 dwellings.

Further east, in Webster and Nicholas Counties, numerous roads were flooded, but damage to homes was less. Yet, this rain event would set up the town of Richwood and much of this area, for more severe flooding a week later

In Wayne County, most of the damage was in the Dunlow area. In Logan County, Garrett Fork and the Sharples area flooded. In Mingo County, the East Fork of Twelvepole Creek saw flooding.

Besides the flood on the Mud River, the Coal and Elk Rivers saw minor flooding. Crests on the Elk and Coal Rivers would be even higher the following week.

This event initiated a federal disaster. See FEMA disaster #1500. More counties would be added to the declaration, after the flooding on the 19th into the 20th.

WVZ005>006-008-011-
013>016-018>020-
025>040-046

Wayne - Cabell - Jackson - Tyler - Lincoln - Putnam - Kanawha - Roane - Calhoun - Ritchie - Doddridge - Logan - Boone -
Clay - Braxton - Gilmer - Lewis - Harrison - Taylor - McDowell - Wyoming - Raleigh - Fayette - Nicholas - Webster -
Upshur - Barbour - Pocahontas

19	0600EST	2	0	12.0M	Flood
20	0800EST				

Rains of 2 to 4.2 inches fell from 2200E on the 18th through 1600E on the 19th. A strong inflow of moist air from the southeast, helped enhance these rains. The heaviest rain was over the central and southern mountains, say from the Snowshoe region on through Richwood, Beckley, Mullens, and Elkhorn. Some of the preliminary rain totals were 4.2 inches at Snowshoe, 3.9 inches at Richwood, 3.7 inches at Elkhorn, 3.5 inches at Rosedale, 3.3 inches at Frost and Mullens, 3.1 inches at Webster Springs and Glenville, 2.9 inches at Oak Hill and Beckley.

Vegetation was dormant for the upcoming winter, the ground saturated, and the waterways were still flowing above normal levels from the heavy rain the preceding week. As a result, runoff into streams and rivers during this second November event was rapid. At the least, counties experienced flooded roads and landslides from overflowing small streams during the daylight hours on the 19th. Several rivers exceeded flood stage late on the 19th on into the 20th.

This second round of November flooding hit the counties of Nicholas, Fayette, Raleigh, Wyoming, and McDowell harder. The Cherry River flooded Richwood. On the river gauge on the Cranberry River, a crest of 11.9 feet was reported by the USGS. The flood of record at that gauge is 12.2 feet in July of 1954. Eleven residences were destroyed, 100 had major damage, and 200 dwellings saw minor damage in Nicholas County. One church had major damage. Richwood Junior High School had 3 to 4 feet of water inside. The principal said, "It was the worst thing I had ever seen in my life." Richwood High School had a foot of water in some sections. Some students were evacuated to City Hall. The water and sewer system in Richwood was damaged.

In Fayette County, some 20 homes had major damage and Sugar Creek Road was impassable. In Raleigh County, 3 homes had major damage and roughly 300 homes and businesses had some minor damage. One empty school bus was destroyed when the operator drove into water along Route 3. On the Clear Fork of the Big Coal River, the crest above Whitesville was 22 feet, about 4 feet above bank full. In Wyoming County, 8 residences had major damage and about 200 sustained minor damage. In Mullens, 5 businesses were closed with major damage. In McDowell County, about 50 homes had minor damage, and roads were closed by slides. In Gilmer County, about 50 homes were damaged, some by small streams, and others by the Little Kanawha River. The Left Fork of Steer Creek caused minor damage to Normantown Elementary School. In Glenville, the Little Kanawha River crested at 30.4 feet near 0000E on the 20th. In Calhoun County, Arnoldsburg Elementary School had 8 inches of water inside. In Putnam County, about 20 homes had major damage, while some 60 others saw minor damage from flooding. In Pocahontas County, about 15 to 20 homes or businesses had minor damage. In Webster County, the upper Gauley River crested at 22.3 feet at Camden on Gauley. That is the highest stage since the 23.1 foot level in November of 1985.

In Kanawha County, most of the flooding was the result of the Elk, Coal and Kanawha Rivers exceeding or reaching flood stage. Most of the damage was in the Clendenin vicinity from the Elk River. The crest at Queen Shoals was 23.3 feet, or over 4 feet above flood stage. The lower Coal River at Tornado crested near 29 feet, or 4 feet above flood stage. The Kanawha River crested in Charleston at its 30 foot flood stage around 0200E on the 20th. That's the first time since 1955, that flood stage in Charleston has been obtained. All total about 40 residences and 2 businesses in Kanawha County had major damage.

Around 1100E on the 19th, an 80 year old male from Dunlow drowned, after driving his vehicle into flood waters from Mill Creek. This occurred near Fort Gay in Wayne County. During the evening of the 19th, an 82 year old man from Switzer of Logan County



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WEST VIRGINIA, West

fell into the swollen Island Creek and drowned. Apparently, he was out walking in the dark. His body was recovered on the 20th, about 3 miles down the stream.

This second episode of flooding in November, caused several more counties to qualify for federal assistance. The major disaster was declared after the flood on the 12th into the 13th.

M80VE, M82OU